



Meet Jean Russell Literacy Specialist at Haverhill Elementary

2016 Indiana Teacher of the Year

Jean Russell is an Indiana educator whose motto is to “live with the heart of a servant”. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from University of Illinois and a Master’s degree in Elementary Education from Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne. After 21 years of elementary classroom experience, she is in her fifth year as a literacy instructional coach in Southwest Allen County Schools. Her passion for helping all students to love reading and to live the life of a writer inspires each class she has the privilege of serving. She is an enthusiastic cheerleader for the teachers she coaches, the parents she educates, and the students she loves! She understands that the single biggest factor in a child’s success during a school year is the quality of the teacher. Just like athletes use coaches to improve, teachers can use coaches to make good into better and better into best. When teachers have individualized professional development matched to their needs, student engagement and achievement soar!

As the 2016 Indiana Teacher of the year, she plans to spend her year of service sharing the voice of Indiana’s teachers wherever she goes. She will travel around the state working with colleges, instructional coaches, teachers and policy makers to promote recruitment and retention of great educators.

She is a recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, Indiana’s highest civilian honor, and the Indiana University Armstrong Educator Award. She serves on the ISTEP Alternative Assessment Panel, Blue Ribbon Commission, CAEP, and Kappa Delta Pi focus groups. She has been married to Tom Russell for 23 years, and has two beautiful daughters, ages 14 and 15. Of course, one of her favorite hobbies is reading!

Follow her on Twitter @HESBookDiva and on her new account to promote teaching in Indiana, @Teach_Indiana